6 PART MINI-SERIES

SON OF AMBUSH BUG

6
DEC. 86

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN- YOU CAN'T FIRE ME-- I QUIT! SO THERE! (Signed) Irwin Schwab

-choke-

YOU ARE NOW LEAVING THE DC UNIVERSE.

READ ALL ABOUT IT! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

DAILY MIRROR EXTRA

AMBUSH BUG FIRED BY DC COMICS INC.

FIRST COMIC BOOK CHARACTER EVER TO BE CANNED BY A MAJOR COMPANY

S-4832

AMBUSH BUG GIVEN THE OLD HEAVE-HO! AMBUSH BUG SHOWN THE DOOR! AMBUSH BUG--

--SACKED--

--SENT PACKING--

--BOUNCED--

--GIVEN THE AX--

--DISMISSED BY DC COMICS INC. AFTER HIS RECENT CONVICTION...

GUILT

...FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS INKARCERATION...

...IN LIMBO.

GRAY PLANTER

COURT SKETCH

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION

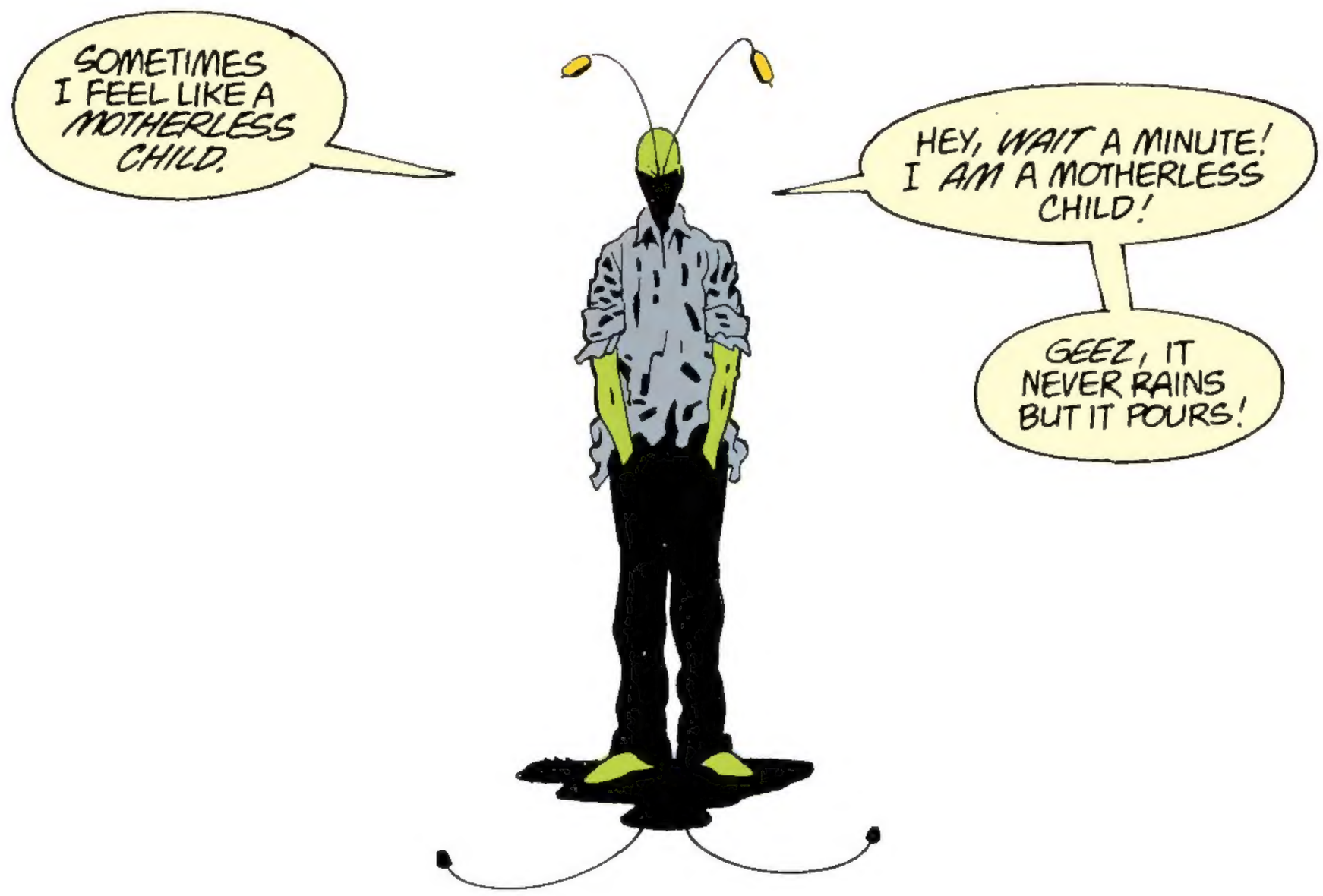
JULIE, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO LIMBO! I DON'T LOOK GOOD IN WHITE!

JULIUS SCHWARTZ 21

LOOK, IT'S NOT SO BAD WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE!

AMBUSH BUG -IN-

"WALKING PAPERS"



♪♫

THEY'RE RIGHT. TIME *FLIES* WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.

I WISH I WAS *HAVING* SOME.

WHITE... *AIN'T* IT?

WHAT'S HE *DOIN'*?

HE'S JUST WANDERING AROUND FEELING *SORRY* FOR HIMSELF!

WHY DOESN'T HE *DO* SOMETHING? THIS IS *BORING*!

HEY, *AMBUSH BUG*! WE PAID 75¢ FOR THIS COMIC AND WE WANT SOME *ACTION*!

OR AT LEAST SOME *LAUGHS*! C'MON! GET *WITH* IT!

GIVE US COMIC FANS OUR *MONEY'S* WORTH!

SORRY, CHUMS, BUT I'VE BEEN *DUMPED!* THAT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO ENTERTAIN *ANYONE EVER AGAIN!!* END OF *LECTURE*, END OF *DISCUSSION!*

AND *ANOTHER* THING...!

YOU'VE GOT A HELL OF A LOT OF *NERVE* EXPECTING *LAUGHS* FROM A POOR, SORRY SAP WHO'S TRAPPED IN *LIMBO!!* AS IF I DON'T HAVE *ENOUGH* TO WORRY ABOUT, NOW I FIND OUT WHAT I *REALLY* MEAN TO ALL OF YOU!!!

TO *YOU*, I'M NOTHING *MORE* THAN A...

...CHEAP *LAUGH.*

:SOB:

NOBODY *LOVES* ME!

HAHAHA!! NOW *THIS* IS MORE *LIKE* IT!!

YEAH! LOOKIT HIM *BLUBBER!!* HEE HEE HEE!!

KRASH!

OH, NO! : HAW HAW HAW : THERE GOES MY NEW *DINETTE* SET!!

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO

LEARN THE HOKEY-POKEY WITH Jujitsu-bishi!

YOU PUT YOUR RIGHT FIST IN...

YOU TAKE YOUR RIGHT FIST OUT...

YOU PUT YOUR LEFT WRIST IN...

AND YOU SHAKE THEM BOTH ABOUT...

YOU DO THE HOKEY-POKEY AND YOU TWIRL IT ALL AROUND...

...AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

HEY!!

YOU PUT BOTH FEET IN...

YOU TAKE BOTH FEET OUT...

YOU PUT BOTH...

UH...YOU PUT...UHH...

...BOTH...

HEY!

...AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

ZONKY COMICS

60 PAGES OF EXCITING ADVENTURES!

ACTION DETECTIVE ADVENTURE

No. 1 1942

FEATURING AMBUSH BUG CHAMPION OF LIBERTY

DANGER

FEB. 10¢

VERSUS

"NAZI TIGERS from MARS!"

ONE STARRY NIGHT AT THE MT. AMBUSH BUGSERVATORY...

YIKES!

MY EVIL ENEMY, RATBOT, GRIDS HIS LOINS FOR BOMCAT! *

*Translation: "MY EVIL ENEMY, RATBOT, GIRDS HIS LOINS FOR COMBAT!" - Julie

YEAH! THAT, TOO!

BUT NOW TO MY TRUSTY STARSHIP, GLEMP...

...FASTEST STARSHIP TO EVER BEGIN WITH A "G"!

GLEMP!

I CAN SEE THE PLANET ALREADY! NO, WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S MY PLANET!

THAT'S WHY IT'S GETTING SMALLER!

NUTS AND BOLTS! IT'S THAT FLESHY FATHEAD-- AMBUSH BUG!

MY SCREAM BEAM WILL SHRIEK HIM OUT OF THE SKY!!

AAAAAA

I'M WEARING...

...EARPLUGS!!

EEP!

HUH?

COME AGAIN?

COUGH COUGH COUGH

SO.

YOU MAY KNOW ME AS *PEABODY*, OF THE ADVERTISING AGENCY *PEABODY, DICKER AND PENDING*. THE *THREE* OF US WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS *OPPORTUNITY*--

--TO *SLAP* YOUR *SMUG* LITTLE *FANBOY FACES!* AND YOU DON'T KNOW HOW *GOOD* IT FEELS TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO *SAY*--

QUIET, DICKER! AS I WAS *SAYING*, WE'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS *OPPORTUNITY* TO *SAY FAREWELL* TO ALL OF YOU AND TO *THANK* THAT COSMIC BUTTINSK--*ER*-- *PHILANTHROPIST*--THE *INTERFERER*-- FOR CHANGING US FROM *AD MEN* INTO *SUGAR DADDIES*.

ANYTHING TO *ADD*, PENDING?

UHHH... I'M *THINKING*. I'LL GET *BACK* TO YOU.

WELL... WHAT IF I *PROPOSE* A HEARTY THREE CHEERS FOR OUR *BENEFACTOR*?

HIP.

HIP.

WELL... *OKAY.*

AND THERE YOU *HAVE* IT, FOLKS! AFTER ALL IS *SAID* AND *DONE*, WORD OF MOUTH IS *STILL* THE *BEST* ADVERTISEMENT!

AMBUSH BUG HERO HISTORY

AMBUSH BUG BEGAN HIS CAREER IN A LEGENDARY TITLE CALLED **ZONKY COMICS.** HE WAS COVER-FEATURED ON THE **FIRST ISSUE,** DATED **FEB., 1942,** AND THEN WENT ON TO STAR IN **ALL TWO ISSUES** OF THAT MAGAZINE. AT THAT TIME HE WAS A TYPICAL **ALL-AMERICAN HERO.**

AMBUSH BUG RESURFACED MANY YEARS **LATER,** IN **DC COMICS PRESENTS #52** THAT ALSO FEATURED **SUPERMAN** AND THE **NEW DOOM PATROL.** STRANGELY ENOUGH, IN **THIS** INCARNATION, HE BECAME A **VILLAIN** AND ACTUALLY APPEARED TO HAVE **KILLED** A MAN IN **COLD BLOOD!**

IN **DC COMICS PRESENTS #59,** THE BUG TRAVELLED TO THE FUTURE WITH **SUPERMAN** AND MET **THE LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES.** BY NOW HE HAD TAKEN ON A MUCH MORE **MADCAP** AIR, BECOMING LESS OF A **VILLAIN** AND MORE THE LOVABLE **PEST** THAT HE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO **BE!**

HUH??

COME **AGAIN?**

IT WAS ONLY **INK...**

...I **THINK!**

--OR **NOT** TO BE!

THAT IS THE **QUESTION??**

ON A STRANGE **SIDE-TRIP,** AMBUSH BUG APPEARED IN AN ISSUE OF **SUPERGIRL** AND **MISTOOK** THE MAID OF STEEL FOR A RED-KRYPTONITE-ALTERED **SUPERMAN!** STILL **LOONY** AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS, THE BUG DECIDED NEVERTHELESS TO BECOME A **SUPER-HERO** IN ORDER TO AID HIS DISFIGURED **CHUM!**

AFTER GUEST SHOTS IN THREE ISSUES OF **ACTION** AND YET ANOTHER **DC PRESENTS,** THE BUG FINALLY RECEIVED HIS OWN **FOUR ISSUE MINI-SERIES,** IN WHICH HE TOOK UP SUPER-HEROICS IN **EARNEST,** PROTECTING HIS CITY AGAINST **TERRORISTS, GIANT MONSTERS; SUPER-VILLAINS** AND **COMIC BOOK CONTINUITY!**

A GIANT-SIZE **STOCKING STUFFER** FOLLOWED, AND IT WASN'T **LONG** BEFORE AMBUSH BUG RETURNED IN **ANOTHER** MINI-SERIES, **SIX** ISSUES THIS TIME, WHICH WAS DUBBED **SON OF AMBUSH BUG.** BUT ALL WAS NOT **WELL,** AS THE **JEALOUS,** THE **PETTY** AND THE **IGNORANT** BEGAN TO **CHIP AWAY** AT OUR HERO'S **HAPPY FACADE!**

SUPES IS SO **SOFT** AND **TWISTED!** SO--

--HMMM.

LET THE BUYER **BEWARE!**

I FEEL SO **VIOLATED.**

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SUM UP AMBUSH BUG IN ONLY ONE WORD...

DR. DERWOOD DENTON, AMBUSH BUG'S SHRINK:

IN MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION...

SORRY. THAT'S FOUR WORDS.

DR. QUENTIN QUANTIS, A.K.A. QUANTIS, THE KOALA WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN, AND AN AMBUSH BUG NEMESIS:

NIK NAK!

NOT REAL WORDS! ON TO OUR NEXT CONTESTANT...

CHIEF DETECTIVE DRISCOLL, DEAR FRIEND AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF AMBUSH BUG:

WHO?

AND NOW WE TURN TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO ASK...

AMBUSH BUG'S MOM:

SKRITCCCHHHHHH

HER VOICE OBVIOUSLY CHOKED WITH EMOTION.

AND AMBUSH BUG'S GUARDIAN ANGEL:

HIC

HIS VOICE OBVIOUSLY CHOKED WITH SOMETHING ELSE.

AND AMBUSH BUG'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

WHO GETS IN THE LAST WORD...

FLAKY!

THIS COMIC--WHO IT IS AND HOW IT CAME TO BE!

IT ALL BEGINS IN THE OFFICE OF EDITOR JULIUS SCHWARTZ...

KEITH PITCHES A PLOT.

JULIE SENDS HIM HOME TO PENCIL IT.

KEITH PENCILS THE PAGES.

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

FLEM TAKES THE PAGES HOME AND DIALOGUES THEM IN HIS CLOSET. *

* An INSIDE Joke. --Julie

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

JOHN LETTERS THE PAGES. (We're not sure how this is done.)

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

BOB INKS THE PAGES.

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

TONY COLORS THE PAGES. (or so he claims.)

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

PRODUCTION "FINISHES" THE PAGES.

JULIE APPROVES THE PAGES.

AND NOT EVEN WE KNOW...

...WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

IF I'VE OFFENDED ANYONÉ...

IF, IN THE COURSE OF GOING ABOUT MY SATIRICAL BUSINESS, I HAVE SOMEHOW INADVERTENTLY GIVEN OFFENSE... IF, WITHOUT MEANING TO, I HAVE BRUISED A FEW TENDER EGOS... IF, QUITE BY ACCIDENT, I HAVE INJURED THE OCCASIONAL REPUTATION... IF, THROUGH CARELESS INNUENDO, I HAVE DAMAGED A CAREER... IF, BY ANY ACTION ON MY PART, I HAVE CAUSED SUFFERING OR GRIEF... IF, INTENTIONALLY, I HAVE CAST ASPERSIONS ON MY BETTERS... IF I HAVE UNFLAGGINGLY SALTED THE WOUNDS OF PEOPLE IN PAIN... IF MY CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS HAS LEFT A BLOODY TRAIL OF LITTERED CORPSES IN ITS WAKE... IF MY UNDYING MALICE HAS TORN TO PIECES THE FRAGILE FACADES CONCEALING THE TWISTED GROTES-QUERIES THAT LIE JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE... IF, IN FACT, I HAVE BEEN THE BUTCHER OF BANALITY AND THE ULTIMATE HACKSAW ARTIST OF ALL THAT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN HELD IN SACRED ESTEEM BY THE PREEMINENT POWERS-THAT-BE OF THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY...

...THEN I'LL FEEL THAT I'VE DONE MY JOB.

OR AS *THE INTERFERER* WOULD SAY...

HOO HA!!

POOR L'IL SCREWED-UP *OMEGA UNIVERSE*-- HERE I *COMES!!*

ZAM!

WELL **HELLO** THERE, YOU BIG **BRUTE** YOU!♫

THERE'S GONNA BE SOME *CHANGES* MADE!

YOU ARE... *TOO LATE!* THOSE WITH *ULTIMATE POWER* HAVE ALREADY *DECIDED* OUR FATES!

THOSE WITH... *ULTIMATE POWER?!* NO... YOU *CAN'T* MEAN... NOT...

...NOT *CANCELLATION!!* YOU *CAN'T* CANCEL THE BOOK WHILE I'M TRAPPED *INSIDE!!!* **C'MON,** YOU GUYS! QUIT KIDDING *AROUND!!*

OMEGA MEN

LET ME *OUT!!!*

WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF *ONE* PRETENDER TO THE THRONE! :CHUCKLE:

OH, YEAH. I'M STILL HERE.

AND I DON'T MIND *TELLING* YOU THAT MY *LEGS* ARE GETTING TIRED.

HOLD THE *PHONE*. WHAT'S *THIS*?

IT'S THE STUB OF KEITH'S *DRAWING PENCIL*--THE ONE I BIT IN *HALF* LAST ISH!

THAT GIVES ME AN *IDEA*...

I'M NO *ARTIST*... BUT THEN AGAIN, THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A *MASTERPIECE*; JUST SO LONG AS I CAN REST MY WEARY *BUTT*.

NOW FOR A LITTLE *ATMOSPHERE*.

AND *PRESTO!*

NOT SO *BAD*, IF I *DO* SAY SO MY--

SELLLL

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO

TELL KNOCK-KNOCKS WITH Mitsu-bishi!

KNOCK KNOCK

WH-- WHO'S THERE?

MITTS.

M-M-MITTS WHO???

MITSU BISHI!

GULP!

KNOCK KNOCK.

WHO...

...THERE?

EXEC.

EXEC... WHO?

EXECOOTION ORDER!!

IS DAWN, DUMMY!!

BANG

IS KILLER TIME!!

BANG

BANG

BY OFFICIAL DECREE FROM HONORABLE OFFICE OF DC COMICS INC., TOKYO BRANCH:

MITSU BISHI DIE AT DAWN!!

HA! YOU MISPRONOUNCE EXECU-

GRAB FOR GUSTO WHILE YOU CAN!!!

Pant Pant Pant

THE ONE TO HAVE IF YOU'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR ONE!

KNOCK KNOCK.

WHO-THERE?!!

WHO!!

WHO WHO?

I SAY-- WHO WHOOOOOPS!!

YUM! LITTLE OWLS MY FAVORITE FOOD!!

QUACK! OINK!! MOOOO--

GULP!

SPLASH!

KNOCK KNOCK.

WHO THERE?

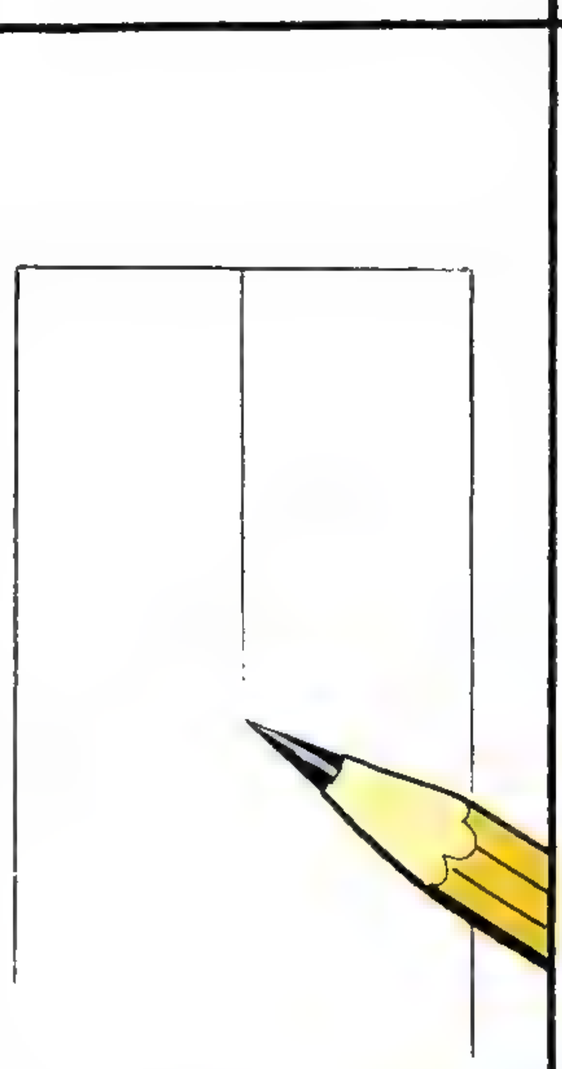
BOO!!

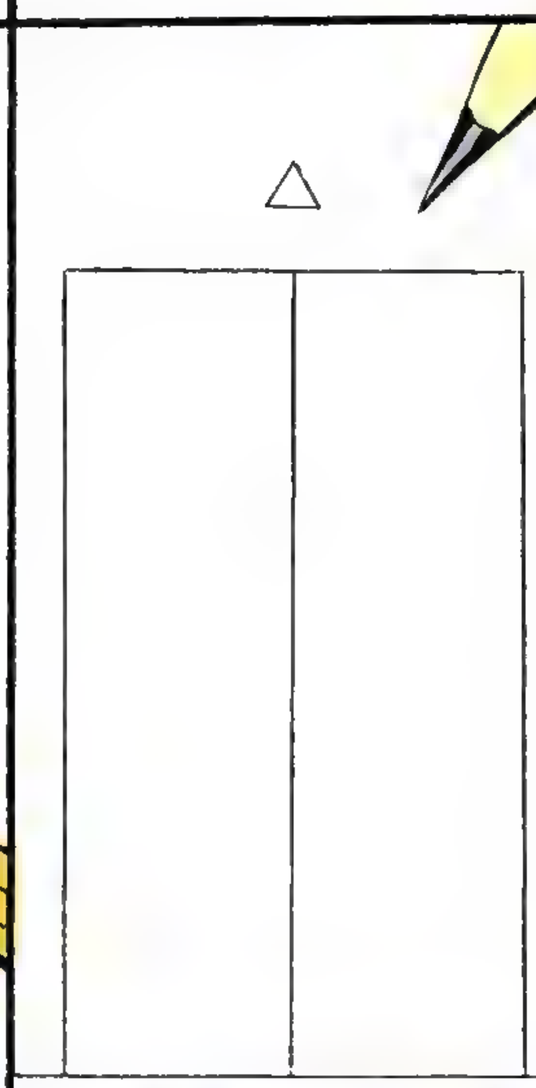
BOO HOO

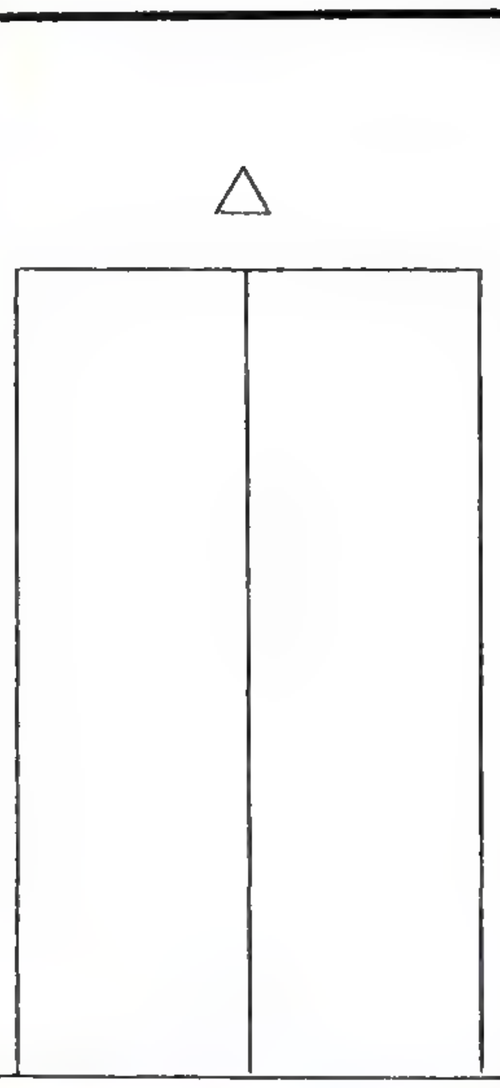
THERE AREN'T ANY CAPTIONS IN LIMBO.

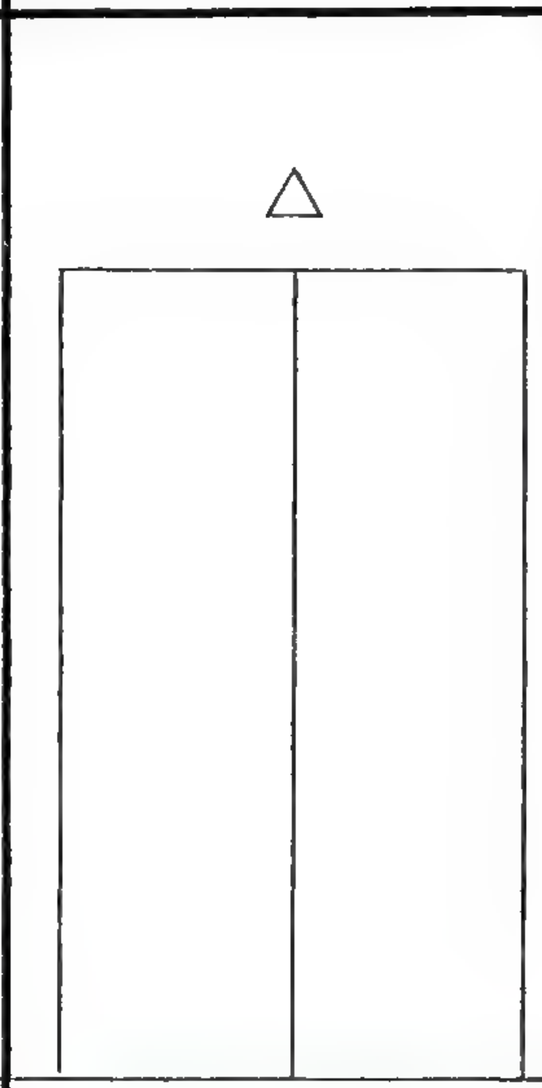
SO JUST IGNORE THESE, WILL YOU?

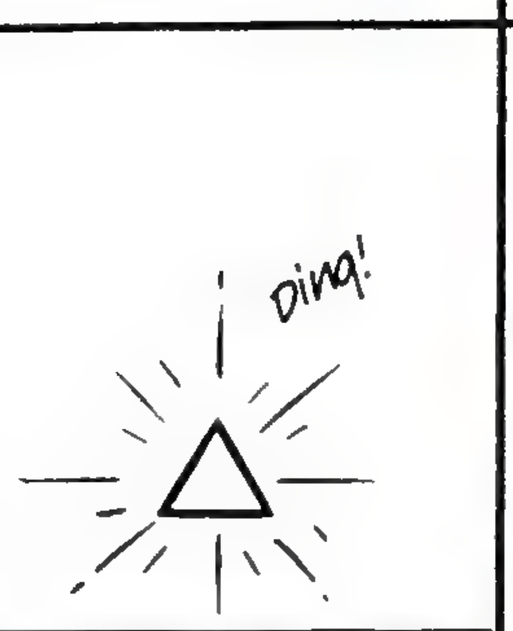
THIS ONE, TOO.

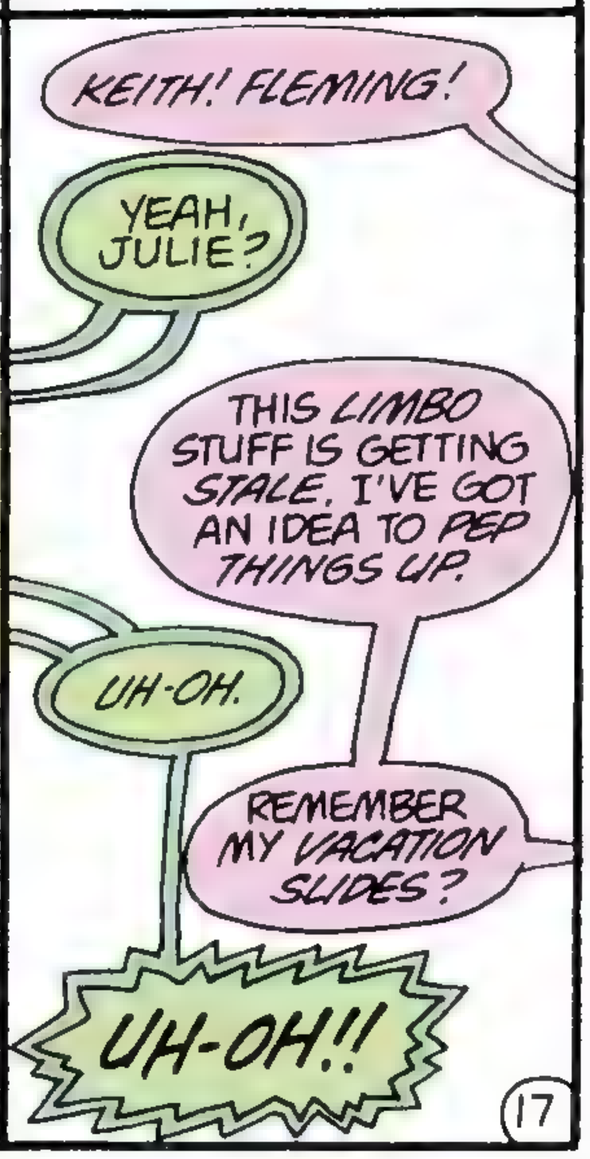











KEITH! FLEMING!
YEAH, JULIE?
THIS LIMBO STUFF IS GETTING STALE. I'VE GOT AN IDEA TO PEP THINGS UP.
UH-OH.
REMEMBER MY VACATION SLIDES?
UH-OH!!

CLICK!
THIS IS THE HOTEL WHERE I *STAYED*. BETTER THAN *LIMBO* ANY DAY OF THE *WEEK*, RIGHT?
RIGHT??
MY ROOM
UH... *YEAH!!* OH, *ABSOLUTELY*, JULIE!! *POSH!!*
CLICK
AND THIS IS--
WE *KNOW* WHAT THIS ONE IS, JULIE.
OH, BOY, DO WE *EVER* KNOW WHAT THIS ONE IS!
CLICK
THIS PICTURE I CAN'T *EXPLAIN!* IT DEPICTS SOME SORT OF *ORGANIC, FLESHY MASS* OF *HUGE PROPORTIONS*, AND YET I DON'T REMEMBER *SEEING* IT AT THE *TIME!*
:*PSST*: KEITH! IT'S JULIE'S *THUMB!*
SHHH! WHY SHATTER HIS *ILLUSIONS?*
CLICK
THIS IS SOME *LOCAL GUY* WHO LET ME TAKE HIS *PICTURE*.
CLICK
AND THIS IS THE *SAME* LOCAL GUY KNOCKING ME *COLD* JUST BEFORE HE TOOK ALL MY *MONEY*.
KEITH? FLEMING?
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
GRRR! I KNOW HOW TO ROUSE *THOSE* TWO!!
CLICK
GREAT DAY IN THE *MORNING!!*

MEANWHILE, IN LIMBO...

IS MY SENTENCE OVER? HAS IT BEEN THREE YEARS?

IT'S BEEN EIGHT. WE FORGOT ABOUT YOU.

WELL, THANK HEAVEN MY TERM OF PUNISHMENT FINALLY ENDED. NOW I CAN RESUME MY RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY, CORRECT?

NOT EXACTLY.

NOW YOU'RE BANISHED!

DC UNIVERSE

WANNA RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN?

BANISHED! EXILED! A SOCIAL LEPER!

OH, AND I'M GONNA HAVE TO CONFISCATE THAT UNIFORM.

COSTUME RETURN

LEAVE IT RIGHT OVER THERE. DC PROPERTY, YOU KNOW.

IS IT CLEAN?

DON'T PUSH IT, LADY.

JUST TAKE IT EASY, PAL.

HERE'S YOUR TRAIN NOW.

WHOOO WHOO-

RAKITA-TAKITA-A

BRRUMP

BRRUMP

BABY... BOY?

US

DADDY'S ANGEL!

NOW THAT WE'RE BACK *TOGETHER*, CHEEKY, I DON'T CARE *WHAT* THEY DO TO ME!

AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT *EACH OTHER*, WE'LL NEVER-- *CHOKE!*--NEVER BE--SOB!!--

Dear Reader,
Julie Schwartz here, to inform you that Keith "kindhearted" Giffen and Robert Loren "Three Handkerchief" Fleming are both overcome with emotion and will be unable to complete this issue. However, I have managed to produce the services of one of the few other artists to have previously drawn the Bug-- Keith's little son, Kyle Giffen.
Now if these two CRYBABIES would just vacate my office long enough for me to bring my SQUEEGIE into play...
.

BYE

BYE

WHEEEEEEEEEE

sun

hot

ouch

WHEEEEEEE

doctor

YUCK

A. BUG
+
Cheeks

Oh, say can you see, by the Dawn's Early Light, What so proudly we hailed at the Twilight's Last Gleaming?

Whose Broad stripes and Bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, o'er the Ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the Rockets Red Glare, The Bombs Bursting in Air, Gave proof thro' the Night that our Flag was still there.

Oh says does that star Spangled Banner yet wave o'er the Land of the Free And the Home of the Brave?

BEEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP

SON OF AMBUSH BUG MINI-SERIES

KEITH GIFFEN
creator, plotter and penciller

ROBERT LOREN FLEMING
scripter

BOB OKSNER
inker

ANTHONY TOLLIN
colorist

JOHN COSTANZA
letterer

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
editor

SON OF AMBUSH BUG MINI-SERIES

SON OF AMBUSH BUG MINI-SERIES